# Kearsley Urban District Council

# Annual Report

OF THE

# Medical Officer of Health

1968

ELLIS TAYLOR, M.B,, Ch.B., D.P.H.
M.O.H.

A. CASHMORE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Public Health Inspector.

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## MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

*Chairman*:
Councillor J. HAYDOCK

*Vice-Chairman*:
Councillor K. HOLT

*Members*:
Councillor E. G. BELL
" E. BRIDGES
" T. COOPER
" R. CORNTHWAITE
" H. ENTWISTLE
" A. T. NOWELL, J.P.
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" W. A. ROBINSON
" Mrs. M. P. ROTHWELL
" J. ROTHWELL
" J. WALKER
" T. WOLSTENCROFT
" E. YATES

## STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

*Medical Officer of Health*
ELLIS TAYLOR M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*Public Health Inspector*
A. CASHMORE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

*Technical Assistant*
W. MORT

*Clerk*
Mrs. M. HOLLAND

# Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

To the Chairman and Members of the Kearsley Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your information the Annual Report on the District for the year 1968.

Perusal of the vital statistics reveals a healthy community with a continuous higher than average birth rate and an exceedingly low wastage rate. Out of 232 births, there were only three stillbirths and only two infant deaths in the first year of life. There were no maternal deaths.

There was an increase in the number of deaths over last year by 20, occurring in the under 65 year group. The main causes of death continues to be heart and circulatory disease (almost half), cancer (almost a quarter) and respiratory disease.

Infectious disease was almost negligible but the continuing need for the maintenance of a high standard of protection against many potential killers must be emphasised — especially diphtheria, poliomyelitis, smallpox, pertussis, tetanus and tuberculosis. The need for immunisation against illness uncommon in this country is demonstrated by returning continental holiday makers. In all these cases, the body must be given time to produce its own defences and it must be realised that in many instances it is too late for prevention when the disease has shown itself.

May I express my appreciation for the interest shown by the Chairman and members of the Committee and for the help and co-operation from colleagues in the Town Hall.

ELLIS TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

## STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area—1,728 statute acres (approx.).

Population—Estimated June, 1968—11,680.

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

| Births: | Total | Males | Females |
|---|---|---|---|
| Legitimate ... ... ... ... ... | 220 | 117 | 103 |
| Illegitimate ... ... ... ... | 12 | 8 | 4 |
| Still Births: | | | |
| Legitimate ... ... ... ... ... | 3 | — | 3 |
| Illegitimate ... ... ... ... | — | — | — |

| | Kearsley | England & Wales |
|---|---|---|
| Birth Rate per 1,000 population ... ... | 21.3 | 16.9 |
| Still Births per 1,000 total births ... ... | 14.3 | 14.3 |

| | Total | Males | Females |
|---|---|---|---|
| Deaths ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 134 | 78 | 56 |

| | Kearsley | England & Wales |
|---|---|---|
| Death Rate per 1,000 population (adjusted) | 13.5 | 11.9 |

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:

| | Total | Males | Females |
|---|---|---|---|
| Legitimate ... ... ... ... ... | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Illegitimate ... ... ... ... ... | Nil | Nil | Nil |

| | Kearsley | England & Wales |
|---|---|---|
| Infant Mortality Rate: (All infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births) ... ... ... ... | 8.8 | 18.3 |
| Perinatal Mortality Rate: (Per 1,000 total births) ... ... ... | 17 | 24.7 |
| Maternal Mortality Rate: (Per 1,000 total births) ... ... ... | Nil | 0.24 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 24 |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | Nil |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ... ... ... ... | Nil |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ... ... ... | Nil |

# TABLE I.

| YEAR | 1959 | 1960 | 1961 | 1962 | 1963 | 1964 | 1965 | 1966 | 1967 | 1968 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Death Rate ... ... ... | 14.3 | 13.5 | 15.5 | 16.1 | 14.5 | 15.3 | 12.2 | 14.0 | 11.3 | 13.5 |
| Birth Rate ... ... ... | 13.5 | 17.2 | 16.1 | 15.8 | 18.8 | 21.9 | 21.8 | 21.2 | 22.5 | 21.3 |
| Infantile Mortality Rate ... | 21.4 | 22.5 | 36.1 | 42.7 | 27.6 | 47.4 | 22.8 | 9.1 | 21.1 | 8.8 |
| Still Birth Rate ... .. | 14.1 | 16.6 | 6.0 | 12.0 | 16.3 | 27.6 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 21.9 | 14.3 |
| **Causes of Death:** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Heart Disease ... ... | (20) 37 | (30) 47 | (18) 40 | (10) 27 | (10) 35 | (13) 42 | (11) 37 | (14) 37 | (5) 31 | (5) 36 |
| Cancer ... ... ... ... | (8) 23 | (4) 20 | (5) 18 | (7) 21 | (3) 14 | (6) 30 | (6) 24 | (6) 28 | (6) 26 | (8) 24 |
| Bronchitis ... ... ... | 6 | 7 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 13 | 7 | 11 |
| Pneumonia ... ... ... | 7 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 4 | Nil | 7 | 6 | 6 |

The figures in brackets are those of Coronary Thrombosis and Lung Cancer.

## CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1968

| | |
|---|---|
| Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases | 1 |
| Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach | 3 |
| Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus | 8 |
| Malignant Neoplasm—Breast | 2 |
| Leukaemia | 1 |
| Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc. | 10 |
| Diabetes Mellitus | 3 |
| Other Endocrine etc. Diseases | 1 |
| Anaemias | 1 |
| Mental Disorders | 1 |
| Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc. | 2 |
| Hypertensive Disease | 2 |
| Ischaemic Heart Disease | 31 |
| Other forms of Heart Disease | 5 |
| Cerebrovascular Disease | 20 |
| Other Diseases of circulatory system | 7 |
| Pneumonia | 6 |
| Bronchitis and Emphysema | 11 |
| Other Diseases of Respiratory system | 1 |
| Peptic Ulcer | 1 |
| Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia | 2 |
| Nephritis and Nephrosis | 2 |
| Hyperplasia and Prostate | 2 |
| Other Diseases, Genito-urinary system | 1 |
| Diseases of Musculo-skeletal system | 1 |
| Other causes of perinatal mortality | 1 |
| Symptoms and ill-defined conditions | 2 |
| Motor vehicle accidents | 2 |
| All other accidents | 2 |
| Suicide and self-inflicted injuries | 1 |
| All other external causes | 1 |
| | 134 |

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following is a list of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year 1968:—

| Disease | No. |
|---|---|
| Scarlet Fever ... ... ... ... ... | 8 |
| Dysentery ... ... ... ... ... ... | 5 |
| Measles ... ... ... ... ... ... | 61 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) ... ... ... ... | 6 |
| Infective Jaundice ... ... ... ... | 11 |
| Whooping Cough ... ... ... ... ... | 8 |

Cases removed to Hospital from the district:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Pneumonia ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |

Tuberculosis—Cases Notified:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Respiratory ... ... ... ... ... | 3 |

The treatment of all cases of tuberculosis is undertaken by the Hospital Services and their domiciliary supervision by the County Council.

### FOOD POISONING

During the year there were four cases of Food Poisoning reported.

### SCARLET FEVER

Eight cases of Scarlet Fever were reported during the year, and all of these were nursed at home.

### DIPHTHERIA

For the twenty-second year in succession there were no cases of Diphtheria.

### LABORATORY FACILITIES

The bacteriological examination of milk and water samples is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory service, Withington and of pathological specimens at Bolton Royal Infirmary.

## WATER SUPPLY

Bolton Corporation is now the sole source of supply for the whole of the district.

The Chemical Analysis and Bacteriological examinations show that the quality and quantity is satisfactory.

There are four houses, with a population of 10, in the outlying district known as Giant's Seat, dependent on well water, which is not a connected supply.

| | *Bolton Corp.* |
|---|---|
| No. of bacteriological examinations of raw water ... | 684 |
| Results ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | Satisfactory |
| No. of chemical analyses ... ... ... ... ... | 7 |
| Results ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | Satisfactory |
| *Water going into supply where treatment is installed:—* | |
| No. of bacteriological examinations ... ... ... | 1,416 |
| Results ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | Satisfactory |
| No. of chemical analyses ... ... ... ... ... | 9 |
| Results ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | Satisfactory |
| Action taken in respect of any form of contamination ... | No contam'tion |
| Liability to plumbo-solvent action ... ... ... | None |

All dwelling houses in the district, except for four, are supplied from public water mains direct to the houses.

## HOUSING

Private enterprise built 55 houses during the year. There is not in the urban district an acute shortage of housing accommodation, and the housing list is again mainly composed of people desiring houses better placed and with better amenities than those which they at present occupy.

There is little available land within the district for large housing schemes so the areas released by slum clearance action, where possible, are being developed by the construction of two story flats consisting of one and two bedrooms.

The first of these schemes was realised in the middle of the year with the completion of 48 flats at Fearnhead Close in West Ward.

This type of accommodation provided a double function in that the older residents were provided with the smaller accommodation they desired, and many were housed from two and three bedroomed council houses which were then available for rehousing families.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

| | Houses | Flats | Bungalows |
|---|---|---|---|
| (1) By the local authority ... | — | 48 | 7 |
| (2) By other local authorities ... | — | — | — |
| (3) By other bodies or persons ... | 55 | — | — |

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 158

(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose ... ... ... ... ... ... 118

(2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which:-
Demolition, Clearance or Closing orders have been made (at any time) ... ... ... ... 19

(3) No. of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit ... 24

2. Houses Demolished:—

In Clearance Areas:—

| | Houses Demolished | Displaced during year Persons | Displaced during year Families |
|---|---|---|---|
| (1) Houses unfit for human habitation | 12 | 206 | 66 |
| (2) Houses included by bad arrangement, etc. ... ... ... ... | — | — | — |
| (3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957 | — | — | — |
| Not in Clearance Areas:— | | | |
| (4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957 ... ... | — | — | — |

3. Unfit Houses Closed:—

| | Number | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| (1) Under Section 16(4), 17(1), and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957 ... ... | 5 | 17 | 5 |
| (2) Under Sections 17(3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957 ... ... | — | — | — |
| (3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18 Housing Act, 1957 ... | — | — | — |

4. Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were remedied:—

| | By Owner | By Local Authority |
|---|---|---|
| (1) After informal action by local authority ... | 6 | — |
| (2) After formal notice under | | |
| (a) Public Health Acts ... ... ... | 6 | — |
| (b) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957 ... ... ... ... ... | — | — |
| (3) Under Section 24 Housing Act, 1957 ... | — | — |

5. Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958 and House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959:—

Standard Grants:—

| Action during year:— | *No. of dwellings or other buildings affected* |
|---|---|
| (i) Applications submitted to local authority | 22 |
| (ii) Applications approved by local authority | 22 |
| (iii) Work completed ... ... ... ... | 36 |

The Council also makes loans under the above provisions for the construction, acquisition, improvement and repair of houses.

## HOUSING CONDITIONS

Great strides have been made in the field of Slum clearance over the past number of years. Since the 15 year slum clearance programme was drawn up in 1963, over half the scheduled properties have either been demolished or are undergoing the necessary procedure to secure their demolition.

It can now be said that the existence of real slum property, as we used to understand the term, has now virtually disappeared, and the majority of the houses remaining in the slum clearance programme, although technically unfit for human habitation, are more sub standard rather than "slums".

## NOTICES

Twenty preliminary notices and nine statutory notices were served during the year.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Domestic refuse was disposed of throughout the year by tipping within the district at Mabel's Brow. Owing to the proposed Motorway link-up road which will pass through this part of the district, the available tipping space will be seriously affected and it is envisaged that the tip will be full by the spring of 1969.

However, Bolton Corporation approached the council asking if they would be prepared to combine with them and other surrounding authorities in the use of their proposed incineration plant. They also offered to make tipping space available in their area at a suitable charge until such time as the incinerator was in operation (mid 1970).

The council agreed to both these proposals, so it is envisaged that tipping in Kearsley will cease around Easter next year.

In an attempt to improve hygiene and easier handling of refuse, the use of plastic sacks and plastic bin liners was extended to include all council owned gas centrally heated houses and all premises situated in operative Smoke Control Areas.

There are now some 500 premises in this system and it is hoped to convert each Smoke Control Area on to the system as it becomes operative each year. Next year it is envisaged that more than 1,000 houses will be provided with a plastic sack or bin liner.

Statement showing the number of receptacles emptied during the year:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Ashbins ... ... ... ... | 209,183 |
| Pails ... ... ... ... | 31 |
| Total loads removed ... ... | 1,554 |

## SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

The sanitary accommodation of the district at the end of the year was as follows:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Fresh water closets ... ... | 4,199 |
| Waste water closets ... ... | 43 |
| Ashbins ... ... ... ... | 4,395 |
| Pails ... ... ... ... | 2 |

## SALVAGE

The collection and sale of salvage has again continued. During the year under review the combined weight of salvage collected was 106 tons 1 cwt. 1 qtr., made up as follows:—

| | T. | C. | Q. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Waste Paper ... ... | 93 | 15 | 0 |
| Miscellaneous ... ... | 12 | 6 | 1 |

The total value was £896-17-5.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

All sewage is treated at the works of the Bolton and District Joint Sewerage Board at Ringley.

## ADULTERATION OF FOOD

The County Council is the authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

A total of 41 samples was obtained comprising 21 milks (of which two were Channel Islands milk) and 20 others as follows:—

1 Salt
1 Curry Powder
2 Bread
1 Meat Paste
1 Meat Pie, canned
1 Beef Steaklettes, frozen
1 Beef Hamburgers, frozen
1 Camphorated Oil, B.P.
1 Pudding, canned
1 Tea Mixture, dry sweetened
1 Fresh Lettuce
1 Irish Stew
1 Lard
1 Christmas Pudding
1 Stuffing
1 Ground Almonds
1 Liver Sausage
1 Black Puddings
1 Fish, canned

I give below details of one sample on which the County Analyst gave an adverse report:—

| Sample | Result of Analysis | Action Taken |
|---|---|---|
| Tea Mixture, dry sweetened | No lemon present, the illustration on the packet showing the drink in the presence of half a lemon could be construed to imply juice in the commodity contrary to the intention of the recommendation made in the Proposals for the Labelling and Advertising of Food. | Manufacturer communicated with |

## RODENT CONTROL

One man is engaged solely on this work.

Two sewer maintenance treatments have been carried out during the year, using Fluoracetamide as recommended by the Ministry.

The following action relating to rodent control has also been carried out: —

| | Type of Property | |
|---|---|---|
| | Non Agricultural | Agricultural |
| (a) No. of properties in district | 4,619 | 9 |
| (b) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification: | 70 | — |
| (c) No. of (b) infested by - rats | 47 | — |
| mice | 7 | — |
| (d) Total number of properties inspected for rats and / or mice for reasons other than notification | 35 | — |
| (e) No. of (d) infested by - rats | 3 | — |
| mice | — | — |

## SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1st January, 1968, to 31st December, 1968

| | |
|---|---|
| Visits and Inspections under P.H.A.1936: | |
| Houses after complaint ... ... ... ... ... ... | 39 |
| Land ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 22 |
| Subsequent visits ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 40 |
| Houses in need of repair ... ... ... ... ... ... | 24* |
| Houses made fit: by owner ... ... ... ... ... ... | 9* |
| by local authority ... ... ... ... | 2* |
| Visits made under Housing Acts: | |
| Slum Clearance etc. ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 119 |
| Improvement grants ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 21 |
| Notification of Infectious Diseases ... ... ... ... ... | 10 |
| Rodent Control Visits ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 11 |
| Offices & Shops Act Visits ... ... ... ... ... ... | 46 |
| Factories Act visits ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 8 |
| Outworkers premises ... ... ... ... ... ... | 5 |
| Drainage inspections ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 12 |
| Visits in connection with smoke control ... ... ... ... | 607 |
| Visits in connection with house letting ... ... ... ... | 423 |
| Visits in connection with refuse collection and disposal ... ... | 73 |
| Food hygiene visits ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 25 |
| Swill boiling plants ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 4 |
| Boarding of animals Act ... ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Unsound food ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 3 |
| Interviews ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 126 |
| No access ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 96 |
| Miscellaneous ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 101 |
| Total visits and inspections | 1,793 |

* Not included in total.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937 to 1959

## PART I OF THE ACT

1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

| Premises | Number on Register | Numbers of Inspections | Written notices | Occupiers prosecuted |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..... | – | 7 | 1 | Nil |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..... | – | – | – | Nil |
| (iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) | 1 | 1 | 1 | Nil |
| Total ..... | 1 | 8 | 2 | Nil |

2—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

| Particulars | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Found | Remedied | Referred To H.M. Inspector | Referred By H.M. Inspector | |
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1.) ..... | 1 | 1 | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Overcrowding (S. 2) ..... | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ... | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient ..... | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective ... | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| (c) Not separate for sexes ..... | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ..... | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Total ... | 1 | 1 | Nil | Nil | Nil |

# PART VIII OF THE ACT

## Out-work

### (Sections 110 and 111)

| Nature of Work | Section 110 | | | Section 111 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) | No of cases of default in sending lists to the Council | No. of prosecu-tions for failure to supply lists | No. of instances of work in unwhole-some premises | Notices served | Prosecu-tions |
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) |
| Employed in manufacture of wearing apparel | 5 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |